

OHV Ambassador Program

An OHV Recreation Fund Special Multi-partnership Program



**A PARTNERSHIP OF AGENCIES AND VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO ENHANCING
MOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA**



Agenda

- ❖ Program Introduction
- ❖ Background
- ❖ Program Design
- ❖ Accomplishments
- ❖ What worked
- ❖ Obstacles
- ❖ Lessons Learned



Volunteers

- ❖ “No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers” --Ronald Reagan
- ❖ We are in an era of “Volunteerism”. The climate is right to develop strong volunteer programs!!

Why Develop an OHV Volunteer Program?

Shifting patterns in recreation activities and OHV management:

- Record and rapid increases in OHV use in Arizona
- Decreased land management budgets
- Increased emphasis on education as a long term strategy for compliance

Mutual Benefit:

- Maintain motorized opportunities and access
- Promote land stewardship/sense of ownership
- Strengthen cooperation between user groups and agencies
- Increase responsible recreation knowledge
- Provide a recognizable presence
- Monitor roads, trails, and facilities
- Public outreach events and site improvements.



Background

- ❖ March 2006: NEED DEFINED
 - OHV Stakeholders defined need for on the ground presence for OHV education and on-the-ground projects.
- ❖ September 2006: BUDGET APPROVED
- ❖ November 2006: AGREEMENTS/PROGRAM DESIGN
- ❖ February 2007: PROGRAM STAFFED/TRAINING DESIGN
- ❖ September 2007: FIRST VOLUNTEER TRAINING

OHV Ambassadors

- ❖ OHV Ambassadors are trained volunteers that help enhance OHV riding opportunities and management by working cooperatively with Arizona land managers to:
 - PATROL/MONTIOR TRAILS
 - monitor motorized areas, roads, trails and facilities (e.g., for trail hazards)
 - provide a recognizable presence on public and state lands
 - model appropriate riding behavior
 - SPECIAL EVENTS and MEET & GREETs
 - provide educational and informative materials to the public
 - SPECIAL PROJECTS
 - Fence repair, sign installation, etc



Program Design

OHV Ambassador Program



- This Program provides cross-jurisdiction coordination among multiple land management and law enforcement entities, OHV user groups, and volunteers.

Program Design

Agency Participants

- Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB)
 - The Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG)
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- The United States Forest Service (USFS)
- The Arizona State Land Department (ASLD)
- Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)



Program Design

Volunteer Agreement

- ❖ Arizona State Parks/ADOA Volunteer Agreement
- ❖ Bureau of Land Management Volunteer Agreement
- ❖ US Forest Service Volunteer Agreement
- ❖ Arizona Game & Fish Group Volunteer Agreement



OHV Ambassador Sites



Program Implementation



- ❖ Multiagency Partnership
- ❖ Mission
- ❖ Logo
- ❖ Equipment and Materials
- ❖ Volunteer Training
- ❖ Media/Outreach
- ❖ Agency Training
- ❖ Evaluation
- ❖ Recognition



Equipment/Supplies

- ❖ Jerseys
- ❖ Training Materials
- ❖ First Aid Survival Bottles
- ❖ Helmet Skinz
- ❖ Business Cards
- ❖ Ambassador caps
- ❖ Vests
- ❖ A-frame signs
- ❖ Trailer/ATVs
- ❖ Trailer Wrap
- ❖ Stickers
- ❖ GPS Units
- ❖ OHV Envelopes
- ❖ Etc...



Required Training



- ❖ First Aid/CPR
- ❖ Program Overview
- ❖ Policy and Procedures
- ❖ Defensive Driving
- ❖ Hazmat
- ❖ Bloodborne Pathogens



- Communication
 - Chain of command
 - Check in/out procedures
 - Radio use and protocol
 - Reporting procedures
 - Emergency procedures
 - Visitor contacts
 - Scenerios



Volunteer Manual



- ❖ Program Overview
- ❖ Selection, Qualifications, & Roles of the OHV Ambassador
- ❖ OHV Ambassador Operations (duties, event procedures)
- ❖ OHV Ambassador Training
- ❖ Administration
- ❖ Appendix A: Forms
 - Volunteer Agreements
- ❖ Appendix B: Ambassador Materials
 - Organization (Chain of Command)
 - Contact Information*
 - Use of Business Cards*
 - Good Samaritan Law
 - Talking Points/ Ice Breakers
 - Rider Gear Discount*
 - Dealer Program*
- ❖ Appendix C: Additional Materials
 - OHV Legislation
 - Spark Arrestors
 - OHVs and Air Quality
 - Elements of an OHV Program
 - Arizona OHVAG
 - Management Guidelines for OHV Recreation
 - Shooting on Public Lands

Equipment Provided

❖ **Agency staff will provide the following equipment to individual OHV Ambassadors:**

- Ambassador Caps
- Training Manual
- Jersey
- Helmet Skin
- Vehicle Magnet and/or Sticker
- Radio & Charger (checked out as needed)
- Maps
- Notebook & Writing Utensil
- Business Cards
- Other necessary equipment, as needed



Accomplishments

- ❖ 86 trained volunteers
- ❖ 4,000 Volunteer Hours
- ❖ >100 Events Held
- ❖ >5,000 Public Contacts
- ❖ 58 abandoned mines located and recorded
- ❖ Fence repaired, trash removed, trail hazards reported, and more...



OHV AMBASSADOR - “MEET & GREET” SET-UP



OHV AMBASSADOR PROJECT KIOSK INSTALLATION



*OHV AMBASSADOR PROJECT
CLEAN-UP & PATROL & SIGN INSTALLATION*



Lending a helping hand...



What worked

- ❖ Strong partnerships
- ❖ Top-notch training program
- ❖ Effective marketing/application process
- ❖ Continually preparing program for limited staff
- ❖ High visibility
- ❖ Volunteer recognition/food!!
- ❖ Embracing collaboration
- ❖ Volunteer leadership
- ❖ Accomplishments well documented!!!



What obstacles were encountered

- ❖ Not enough training orientations held
- ❖ Loss of agency staff
- ❖ Agency concern for liability
- ❖ Communication devices different across jurisdictions
- ❖ Need for dedicated Law Enforcement (\$\$\$)
- ❖ Heavy work load on Ambassador Coordinator
- ❖ The economy
- ❖ How to embrace local level groups without removing the groups local identity.

Lessons Learned

- ❖ Regularly scheduled trainings (need for training coordinator)
- ❖ Train for volunteer leadership
- ❖ Implement long term agreements
- ❖ Do not create more paperwork for volunteers than necessary

Future of the Ambassador Program

- ❖ BLM leading coordination efforts and focusing on team leader concept.
- ❖ Possible interagency MOU.
- ❖ Coordination of additional training efforts – unknown.
- ❖ Possible expansion to existing satellite groups (recognized existing volunteer groups) or other core Ambassador locations.
- ❖ The Ambassador Program provides valuable information to other agencies wanting to develop a local level program.

<http://www.azstateparks.com/OHV/ambassadors.html>
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“Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen” – *anonymous*

